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CONSERVING RANGE LANDS OF THE GREAT PLAINS

Drought, wind erosion, and overgrazing have seriously injured much of the grazing land of the Great Plains during recent years. Only by conserving water, controlled grazing, and other conservation practices can the range of this region be restored to its former state of productivity.



Contour furrows hold rain and snow on the range for grass production. Moisture held by contour furrows increases grass growth.



A soil profile showing moisture penetration on a contour furrowed pasture of the Plains after 3 inches of rain.



Diverting water from drainage ways and gullies and spreading it over grassland by means of diversion ditches and contour furrows not only checks the growth of gullies, but also increases grass growth.



Distribution of waterholes and salt licks over the range encourages livestock to graze pastures uniformly. Ponds also may serve as wildlife centers and aid in flood control.



A reserve livestock feed supply for winter months and drought periods enables the rancher to reduce the grazing load on the range during critical periods.



A fence separates an overgrazed pasture from a well-managed pasture. Controlled grazing pays big dividends in the form of increased forage.

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